Governments. An amount of Rs. 42.05 crores has been provided for the current year. The general approach of the programme is based on watershed development keeping in view the basic needs of the people as well as development based on ecological principles.

To complement the developmental efforts, an Action-oriented Research Programme is being supported since 1983 to find scientific solutions to the complex environment problems of immediate concern. A Centre for Ecological Sciences has also been established at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore,

For conservation of biodiversity, a major initiative has been taken up by setting up the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

In order to prevent diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes, prior approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has to be obtained from the Central Government. While taking decisions on such proposals, their likely environmental and ecological impacts are carefully considered. Whenever forest land is approved for diversion, compensatory afforestation for equivalent non-forest land/degraded forest area is stipulated at the project cost.

To augment the efforts for afforestation and eco-development, an Indo-UK project was started in 1992 at a cost of Rs. 84 crores for a period of 6 years. The project will cover about 42,000 ha. of Uttar Kanara circle and 19,200 ha. of planting in another circle in a period of 6 years. Apart from these efforts, several non-governmental organisations are involved in various afforestation, eco-development and environment awareness activities in this region

Creation of Pollution Free Cities

1602. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are embarking on a programme to create pollution free cities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any cities have been selected in Andhra Pradesh for close monitoring and implementation of pollution free environment; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government has not embarked specific on any programme to create pollution free cities. However, a number of programmes and measures ,for control of pollution are under implementation with an objective to minimise pollution in cities. These include monitoring of air and water quality, laying down of standards and their enforcement. The details are given below:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards;

(iv) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units;

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been aslced by the State Governments to cnmnly with the effluent/

emission standards on a time-bound basis; (vi) A network on ambient air and water quality monitoring stations have been set up. Remedial measures are taken on the basis of any deterioration in their ability; (vii) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas and also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly-ash and phospho-gypsum;

(viii) A notification making environmental statement mandatory has been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per this notification all polluting units seeking consent are required to submit an environmental statement to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards; (ix) A scheme on adoption of clean technologies by the small scale industries and to extend necessary technological support has been prepared; (x) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989; (xi) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel in Delhi and Bombay.

(c) and (d) The industrial towns of Visakhapattanam and Bollaram-Pattancheru have been identified as critically polluted areas. A time-targeted action plan has been prepared for prevention and control of pollution and this is being implemented through the Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board. A scheme for construction of common effluent Treatment Plant for clusters of water polluting industries is under implementation in Bollaram and Pattancheru.

Survey of Tree Growth Timber Resources

1603. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have conducted any survey on the ground survey of actual tree-growth and timber resources in East and West Godavary Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the local forest Department has not given cooperation in the survey;

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to post special pickets on roads leading away from the forest ranges of East Godavari and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) what was the reaction of local forests department to the idea of stationing road pickets which would be manned by forest staff;

(e) whether they were against the idea of road pickets; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Forest survey of India makes an assessment of forest cover in the country once in two years. State Governments including Andhra Pradesh have extended full cooperation for this.

(c) One new check post is opened at Mugulla on the way to Sithanagaram from Rajahmundry.

Three check posts are stationed between Davipatnam and Rajahmundry. One check post at Kowuru also exists on the road from Polavaram to Rajahmundry.

(d) to (0 The State Forest